

Make A Difference - Teach Existing Environmental Education (ECOLEARN)



Project Title	Make A Difference - Teach Existing Environmental Education (ECOLEARN)
Project Summary	Teach exciting prepared environmental education lesson plans at local elementary schools or libraries, or with after school programs and youth programs like Girl Scouts
Country	United States
Country/Region of Focus	United States

Project Description

Environmental protection and sustainability are critical issues for our youth to both understand and to act upon. Schools around the country are struggling to integrate the concepts into their curricula. Often, volunteers are called upon to help and spend hours developing and providing a classroom lesson.

EPA is looking for 6 interns for this project who can teach in the following areas – within King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap counties of Washington State. It is helpful if the intern already has an established relationship with a school, library, after school program, or other youth programs, like Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. We would like school or youth group relationships to be set up before starting the internship.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Educational design

Additional Information

Regional or other specific knowledge required: education, curriculum development and environmental issues.

You must be able to pass a background test to be in schools.

Over the past five years, we have had interns assigned to this project who have developed a set of nine 60 minute lesson plans per grade level, preschool through fifth grade, to be used by parents, students, teachers or other interested people. The interns developed and have been testing the lesson plans in local elementary schools or other youth settings. Topics included: Animals, Air, Water, Climate Change, Ecosystems, Energy, Waste, Food, and Marine Debris.

Students have consolidated information already available and filled in the lesson plan gaps (e.g., specify required readings, essays, activities, etc.) where needed. The students compiled the resources into a simple, easy to use format organized by grade that is broadly accessible to the users. Also the interns have created power points with audio to go with each of the lessons.

We now want to continue testing the lesson plans more broadly, expanding our outreach and make necessary revisions to the materials.

EPA will be providing training to the selected interns on:

- 1) How to teach in the classroom
- 2) Standards
- 3) Make initial contacts with schools and other groups

The internship for this year will:

- 4) Test in one or more schools (an entire school year) or work with outside school youth groups
- 5) Revise the lesson plans accordingly
- 6) Develop clear time frames and materials needed
- 7) Track schedules of teaching
- 8) Submit weekly reports of work accomplishments
- 9) Be able to commit to 10 hours a week

Language Requirements

None